

Message Text

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46

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9688

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV-WEST GERMAN PRESS EXCHANGES HEAT UP ON
EVE OF TITO VISIT

REF: BONN 9112, 9184

1. SUMMARY: SEVERAL NAME-CALLING ARTICLES WHICH BROKE INTO PRINT IN YUGOSLAV AND WEST GERMAN MEDIA FOR A WHILE THREATENED TO ADD TO YUGOSLAV SENSITIVITY AND SUSPICION GROWING OUT OF DIFFICULTIES IN ARRANGING TITO'S VISIT TO BONN. END SUMMARY.

2. ANDREAS RAZUMOVSKY, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG'S CORRESPONDENT IN BELGRADE, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS HOUSE WAS EGGED AFTER AN EDITORIAL APPEARED IN LEADING BELGRADE DAILY POLITIKA JUNE 8 CHARACTERIZING HIS ARTICLE ON TENTH PARTY CONGRESS AS MALICIOUS AND PETTY. (ARTICLE IN QUESTION, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN FAZ MAY 31, RIDICULED OPULENCE AT CONGRESS AND TOUCHED PARTY AT OTHER SORE POINTS.)

3. RED TANJUG BULLETIN, WHICH IS SERBO-CROATIAN SUMMARY OF FOREIGN NEWS ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA CIRCULATED AMONG MEDIA AND OFFICIALS, CARRIED SUMMARIES OF TWO ARTICLES JUNE 10

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UNDER DOMMON HEADLINE "WEST GERMAN PRESS". FIRST WAS

RAZUMOVSKY'S REBUTTAL IN FAZ TO POLITIKA EDITORIAL IN WHICH HE REPORTED EGGING AND ADDED THAT HIGH PRICE OF EGGS SUGGESTED WHO PERPETRATORS MIGHT BE. HE TERMED POLITIKA EDITORIAL CHARACTERISTIC OF RECENT TREATMENT OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS IN YUGOSLAVIA. SECOND ARTICLE, FROM LATEST ISSUE OF SPIEGEL, CLAIMS THAT YUGOSLAVIA WILL FOLLOW INDIA IN BECOMING NEXT NUCLEAR POWER. RED TANJUG SUMMARY MENTIONS ARTICLE'S REFERENCE TO SEMI-OFFICIAL BORBA'S DEFENCE OF INDIAN TEST AND QUOTES YUGOSLAV SCIENTIST AS SAYING THAT PRODUCTION OF ATOMIC BOMB CONSIDERED AS FAR BACK AS 1945, THAT REACTOR AT VINCA WAS BUILT WITH THAT CONSIDERATION IN MIND.

4. SARAJEVO DAILY OSLOBODJENJE JUNE 9 EDITORIALIZES ON ARTICLE SIMILAR TO SPIEGEL PIECE, WHICH APPEARED IN CARINTHIAN PAPER VOLKZEITUNG. IT WAS WRITTEN BY HANS PETER RUHLMANN, WHO WAS SPIEGEL CORRESPONDENT IN BELGRADE IN 1970 WHEN HE WAS JAILED FOR ESPIONAGE. HE WAS RELEASED AND EXPELLED FOLLOWING YEAR.

5. COMMENT: AGAINST BACKDROP OF YUGOSLAV SENSITIVITY AND SUSPICION GROWING OUT OF DIFFICULTIES IN ARRANGING TITO'S VISIT (REFTELS), THESE ARTICLES SEEMED TO CLOUD ATMOSPHERE FURTHER ON EVE OF VISIT. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE SINCE BEEN OFFSET BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S INTERVIEW IN POLITIKA JUNE 14 AND PRESIDENT HEINEMANN'S INTERVIEW IN ZAGREB DAILY VJESNIK JUNE 15. SCHMIDT AGAIN IDENTIFIED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON OSTPOLITIK WIT THAT OF BRANDT AND SCHEEL, AND HEINEMANN WELCOMED TITO'S VISIT AS MEANS OF FURTHER IMPROVING RELATIONS. YUGOSLAV REACTION TO FAZ, SPIEGEL AND RUHLMANN ARTICLES NONETHELESS DEMONSTRATE SENSITIVITY TOWARD UNFRIENDLY TREATMENT IN GERMAN PRESS. REACTIONS ARE NOT TYPICAL OF TREATMENT OF OTHER FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, WHO HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN TARGETS OF NO SUCH ATTACKS.
JOHNSON

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